

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Owing to the illness of Professor von Frisch, the Joint Meeting due to be held with the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour on Monday, 4th September, in the Rooms of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine, is unavoidably cancelled. The meeting will be replaced by an Ordinary Meeting to be held in the Society's Meeting Room at 41, Queen's Gate, on Wednesday, 6th September, with the following agenda:

ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1950, at 5.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th July, 1950.
2. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship.
3. Announcement of election of new Fellows.
4. Additions to the Library.
See pages 35-36.
5. Admission of Fellows.
6. Exhibits.

Fellows are particularly requested to bring suitable exhibits to the Meeting even though it may not be possible to announce their intention to do so beforehand.

Note.—To avoid congestion in the Library and to enable exhibits to be displayed to greater advantage, a table has been placed in the meeting-room for this purpose. Fellows are asked to place their exhibits on this table, with a suitable explanatory note, as soon as possible on the afternoon of the meeting, so that they are available for inspection there before the meeting opens.

7. Communications.

Mr. H. Oldroyd

A visit to the Loiasis Research Scheme, Kumba, British Cameroons.

(ABSTRACT)

Loiasis is a disease caused by the presence in humans of the filarial worm *Loa loa* Guyot. The chief symptoms are "Calabar Swellings," but the full clinical effect of the parasite is not yet understood. The worm is carried by Tabanid flies of the genus *Chrysops*, especially *C. silacea* Austen.

Both the disease and the vector are confined to the Equatorial Forest area of tropical Africa, but within that area both are of very irregular distribution. Initially it was thought likely that the distribution of breeding-places controlled that of the fly, and in turn the incidence of the disease. Breeding-places proved to be muddy streams that are common enough in the area. Moreover adult flies could not be found at ground level in the forest, even at known breeding-sites.

By analogy with other work, especially that on yellow-fever mosquitoes, it was inferred that the flies probably spent their adult life in the forest canopy. Collecting from platforms has since confirmed this view. The present picture is that the flies on emergence go at once to the canopy and there feed on monkeys, which act as a reservoir of the disease. It seems probable that the real distribution of the flies in the tree-tops bears little relation to their apparent distribution as plotted from collections made at ground level. Places where human infestation is high, such as Kumba, are places where habitations are at tree-top level, or where other factors, such as clearing of undergrowth, attract the flies down to the ground.

This factor of "vertical distribution" probably invalidates many of the distribution-maps of other insects that have been plotted from ground collecting in the forest area.

TEA will be served in the Library before the meeting.

A card index of Fellows' addresses arranged on a geographical basis is now available for the use of Fellows in the Society's Rooms. Addresses in Great Britain are grouped under counties; elsewhere under Dominions, Colonies, Foreign States, etc.

ADMISSION OF FELLOWS

Any Fellow who has not been formally admitted to the Society under Chapter XIV, Section 4 of the Bye-laws and attends the meeting on 6th September, 1950, is requested to inform the Secretary before 5.15 p.m. on that date.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th October, 1950, at 5.30 p.m.

N. D. RILEY, *Honorary Secretary.*